

REMARKS

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness over newly cited U.S. Patent No. 4,313,239 to Tsuneki. However, the Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claim 4. Since dependent claim 4 depended directly from claim 1, in view of the Examiner's comments on the allowability of dependent claim 4, it is believed that independent claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been cancelled through this Amendment and its limitations added into claim 1, as discussed above.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 depend from independent claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

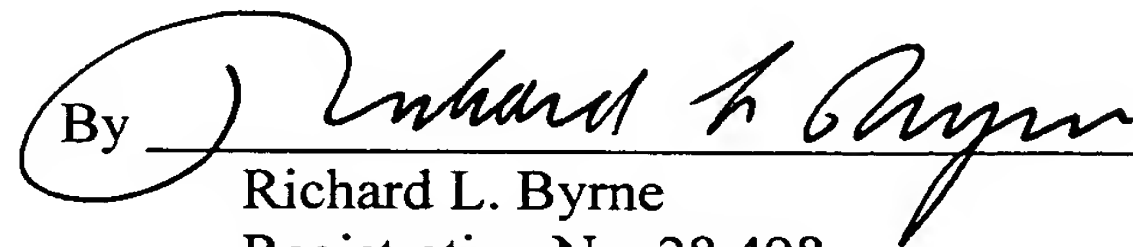
Independent claim 18 is similar to independent claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 18 to include therein the limitations of dependent claim 4. For the same reasons as discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, it is believed that claim 18, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

New claims 21-25, which depend from independent claim 18, are similar to dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-7 respectively. Claims 21-25 are believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claim 18.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that claims 1-3, 5-7, 18 and 21-25 are patentable over the prior art and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 
Richard L. Byrne
Registration No. 28,498
Attorney for Applicant
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1845
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com